



G.E.N. Education collaborates with Mr. Tom Hodgson to design a humanity/philosophy course of What makes a life worth living? How important are wealth, fame, and power for our life prospects? What effects do genetics, upbringing, character traits, culture, political and economic arrangements, and life choices have on our capacity to live happy, admirable, and meaningful lives? Over the course of 12 meetings over 6 weeks, students in "How to Live a Good Life" will explore answers to these questions through encounters with some of humanity's most inspiring individuals and most influential thinkers. A combination of short lectures, discussions, essay writing, and student presentations will help students develop into thoughtful, engaged lifelong learners.

Mr. Tom Hodgson holds an B.A. and M.A. in philosophy from Williams College and Yale University, respectively. He is currently an Instructor Emeritus at Phillips Academy (1976-2017) where he taught courses in ethics, logic, political philosophy, existentialism, metaphysics and theory of knowledge and was a chair of Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. There he was also Head Coach of Andover's varsity squash team. He was a visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Williams College. Tom is currently an assistant coach of squash at Williams College.

## Humanity/Philosophy Class: What makes a life worth living?



**Mr. Hodgson will provide a webinar for students and parents to have a taste of his signature course.**

**Applications need to complete a survey question form and provide a self-introduction upon to the application submission.**

**Weekly 2 lectures (2x90 min), total 6 weeks, 8 students per class; Week of June 21 to Week of July 26**

- **Introduction to Philosophy: The Search for Wisdom**
- **Socrates and Plato: "We Must Reflect": Reason's Promise**
- **Aristotle: Character and Leadership**
- **Buddha, Jesus, and Confucius: Spiritual Paths to Fulfillment**
- **Human Personhood and Dignity: Kant and Hume on Knowledge and Morality**
- **Bentham, Mill, and Marx: Material Conditions and the Good**
- **Modern Utilitarianism: How to Do the Most Good**
- **Existentialism's Challenge: Choosing to Choose**
- **Singing the Songs of Freedom: Democracy and Human Rights in Question**
- **Back to Nature: Human Evolution and Human Nature**
- **Creating Capabilities: Human Development and the Future**
- **Lessons Learned, Questions Unanswered, Lives to Live**

### **Core texts:**

- **The Happiness Hypothesis; Finding Modern Truth in Ancient Wisdom** by Jonathan Haidt
- **The Most Good You Can Do: How Effective Altruism is Changing ideas About Living Ethically** by Peter Singer
- **Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach** by Martha Nussbaum

